Paris, August 12, 1867.

Dear Wife:

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On returning from Scotland to London, -Harry deeming it best that we should defer our contemplated visit to Switzerland till September, it became a matter of grave consideration what to do with the time on our hands before the holding of the Anti-Slavery Conference in Paris. I was strongly desirous of going to Oxford, Warwick, and Stratford-on-Avon, having never seen those places; but the cost of such a trip, even only for ten days or a week, for three of us, including heavy hotel expenses, deterred me from undertaking it, and I deemed it wiser to come directly to this city, as we all did on Saturday, after remaining more than a week almost incog. in London, getting as much bodily rest as possible.

Last Thursday, I called to see William E. Forster, member of Parliament, (Harry accompanying me,) and spent a pleasant half hour with him. On taking our leave, he advised us to be at the House of Commons by 4 o'clock, P.M., saying the great debate on the Reform Bill, as it had been sent down from the House of Lords, would come off that night, and he would try to get us admitted to the galleries. We

gladly complied with his suggestion. Between four and five hundred members were present. It was an occasion of historic interest, and the discussion on both sides was marked by great ability. Gladstone and John Bright spoke with more than their wonted eloquence and power, and I deemed myself very fortunate to have heard them in their best trim. No other person who spoke was at all comparable to either of them. As a parliamentary speaker, Gladstone takes the lead; as a popular orator, Bright has no peer. During a brief recess, Mr. Forster took me to the coffee room of the House, and hospitably gave me a supper, introducing me there to Lord Amberly, (the eldest son of Lord John Russell,) who sails this month for a six months' tour in the United States; to the Archbishop of Canterbury, by whose side I afterward sat in the House, in a privileged seat; and to several members of Parliament. John Stuart Mill sat by my side while I was eating, and we had a social conversation together. He was very strong in his expressions of personal esteem for myself, and hoped I should be able to visit him at his residence at Avignon, in France, where he spends his parliamentary vacation. He is as modest as he is gifted in intellect, though not much as a speaker. I am glad to have made his acquaintance.

Of our trip from London to Paris, and the difficulty we found at midnight to procure lodgings, after abortive applications at various hotels, Frank will give you the particulars. We deemed ourselves in luck, after all, and are well satisfied with our quarters, except the incessant travelling through our street until one or two o'clock in the morning; for Paris is crowded with strangers, and every day brings a fresh influx, partly no doubt with reference to the splendid celebration of the Emperor's birthday on Thursday next, when there is to be a magnificent illumination, &c., &c. The price of rooms and board, in decent quarters and with tolerable accommodations, is enormous. We hire a bedroom and contiguous parlor — the latter Fanny occupying at night, using a single iron bed stead; Harry being called suddenly to Munich, having received a letter from his aunt, (which ought to have been sent to him in London several days since, but the careless person here to whom it was sent lost his address,) stating that his father was in a dying condition; and it is probable he is now not living. These two rooms cost us twenty-six dollars American currency, a week, exclusive of board, washing, &c. Here we expect to remain till the 1st of September. My whole trip will be a heavy one, pecuniarily, in spite of great economy.

We were rejoiced to get letters from you, and
William, and Oliver Johnson, on Sunday morning. These we devoured with
an eager appetite, and were much refreshed by their
contents. You seem to have had no lack of company
at Rockledge; and this must have helped to relieve
the solitude that our absence would otherwise have cre-
ated. We feel truly grateful to Julia for her kind
attentions to you; and are much rejoiced to learn that
Mary-Ann is able to be with you again, after her se-
vere and protracted illness. Ellie and darling Agnes
you must miss exceedingly until their return.
As to William and Ellie going to housekeeping, it is
quite natural they should desire to do so; but it will
be a step requiring serious consideration as to pe-
cuniary liabilities. I would counsel William not
to think of buying Mr. Ellis's cottage, or any other,
even on mortgage, until my return, unless an
extraordinary bargain is offered. My dear S. J.
May will doubtless have returned home ere this is re-
ceived; but I will send him a message of love, at
a venture. I owe him a long letter, and must write
it soon; and also Oliver. As to Fanny and Frank
I see no special change in their looks, and there is
no news to communicate. Our love to the house-
holds at Rockledge and Llewellyn Park. Yours ever W. L. G.